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4-25**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s) : Jay S. Walker et al.  
Continuation of : Serial No 09/443,158, filed November 18, 1999  
Filed : February 18, 2000  
For : CONDITIONAL PURCHASE OFFER MANAGEMENT SYSTEM  
Art Unit : 2768  
Examiner : NA

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
Washington, DC 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified patent application, please amend the application as follows:

**In the Specification:**

Please add the following on page 9, between lines 12 and 13:

-- In one embodiment, CPO management central server 200 is configured as a web server, and conventional communications software such as the Netscape Navigator web browser may be used to transmit a CPO. In one embodiment, the CPO management central server 200 has a web page on the world wide web, allowing the buyer to provide information